



One Hundred Tenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

November 16, 2007

Richard P. Sergel
President and Chief Executive Officer
North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Princeton Forrestal Village
116-390 Village Boulevard
Princeton, New Jersey 08540-5721

Dear Mr. Sergel,

The Committee on Homeland Security is investigating the efforts of owners and operators of the bulk power system to secure their information networks. On October 17, 2007, the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology held a hearing entitled "The Cyber Threat to Control Systems: Stronger Regulations are Necessary to Secure the Electric Grid." During that hearing, the Subcommittee reviewed the efforts of the North American Energy Reliability Corporation (NERC) to advise its members about a particular vulnerability in process control systems and obtain assurances that the vulnerability is mitigated.

On June 21, 2007, the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ES-ISAC) issued an advisory to owners and operators of the electric grid regarding a potentially serious vulnerability involving access to devices on the electric transmission and distribution systems and generating stations. To measure the progress made in implementing the recommended mitigation measures, the ES-ISAC stated that it would distribute a follow-up survey. Prior to the hearing, Committee staff learned that NERC officials told officials at the Department of Homeland Security that two surveys were sent in the month following the issuance of the advisory.

During the October 17 hearing, David Whiteley, NERC's Executive Vice President, was asked to discuss the results of the survey. According to Mr. Whiteley, a large percentage of the owners and operators had indeed complied with the recommendations contained in the advisory:

The survey was the follow-up to the guidance that was issued earlier in the spring, and we have determined that approximately, at this point, 75 percent of the transmission grid has either taken appropriate actions or is in the process of implementing those actions. And we continue to follow

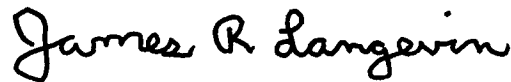
up with the remaining 25 percent of the grid that either has not reported or that hasn't started to take action to find out what the status is.¹

When asked to clarify if these numbers were demonstrable, Mr. Whiteley stated:

This is a follow-up with most of the large utilities in the country and many of the intermediate-size utilities as well. And it is hard evidence or hard data that we have asked, and they have explained what has been done. So we have direct information.²

Pursuant to Rule X (3) (g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee requests that you provide copies of the survey and its results by not later than November 28, 2007. If you have any questions, please contact Jacob Olcott, Subcommittee Director and Counsel, Committee on Homeland Security, at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Langevin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

James R. Langevin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats,
Cybersecurity, and Science and
Technology

¹ Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology, *The Cyber Threat to Control Systems: Stronger Regulations are Necessary to Secure the Electric Grid Hearing*, October 17, 2007.

² *Id.*